

REMARKS


Prior to the examination of this application, Applicants respectfully request that the application be amended as set forth above. The title has been amended to more clearly describe the claimed invention. The originally-filed Abstract has been replaced with a replacement Abstract filed herewith on a separate sheet of paper. The specification has been amended to insert priority information. Applicants have also cancelled claims 1-11, without prejudice or disclaimer, and added new claims 12-23. New claims 12-23 are supported at least by originally filed claims 1-11. No new matter has been introduced. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request examination of claims 12-23.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: March 4, 2004

By: 
Michael W. Kim
Reg. No. 51,880

Attachment: Abstract

ABSTRACT

Embodiments of the invention relate to a transfer device for a container whose interior is under negative pressure and which is closed by means of an elastic stopper. The device has a receiving cap and a piercing mandril for piercing the stopper. Relative to its direction of piercing, the piercing mandril is provided with a front piercing portion and with a rear sealing portion which is of greater diameter. In the position in which a bead of the container is inserted into the receiving cap, the sealing portion contacts the stopper. In this way, a tear in the stopper, which tear has been formed by eccentric application of the device onto the container, can be sealed off.